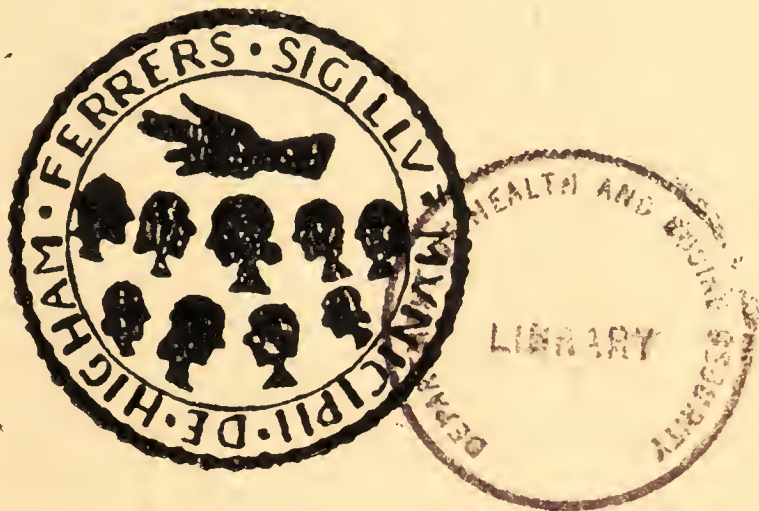


I

BOROUGH OF HIGHAM FERRERS



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the

Year 1972



F. R. N. LYNCH, M.B. B.ch., B.A.O., M.F.C.M., D.P.H.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b29428750>

BOROUGH OF HIGHAM FERRERS



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the

Year 1972



F. R. N. LYNCH, M.B. B.ch., B.A.O., M.F.C.M., D.P.H.

Borough of Higham Ferrers.

Mayor:

COUNCILLOR F. O. CHURCH

Members of the Highways and Health Committee:

COUNCILLOR P. GADSBY (Chairman)

Alderman:

T. C. OBERMAN

Councillors:

MRS. J. B. BARRETT

F. O. CHURCH

H. O. BINDER

E. A. JENNINGS

M. W. BOOTH

L. SIMPSON

MRS. L. E. WILLIAMS

Town Clerk:

G. H. CRAPPER

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY:

Medical Officer of Health:

F. R. N. LYNCH, M.B., B.ch., B.A.O., M.F.C.M., D.P.H.

*(Medical Officer of Health Northamptonshire Health Division No. 2
& Kettering M.B.)*

Secretary:

MISS M. W. LANGLEY

Surveyor and Public Health Inspector:

W. H. PLUMMER, M.P.H.I.A., A.M.Inst.H.E.

CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
Introductory Letter 	4
SECTION A	
Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area ...	7
SECTION B	
General Provision of Health Services in the Area	14
SECTION C	
Sanitary Circumstances of the Area 	19
SECTION D	
Public Health and Housing Acts 	23
SECTION E	
Inspection and Supervision of Food 	24
SECTION F	
Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious Diseases	26
SECTION G	
Administration of Factories Act and Table of Inspections 	29

Area Health Office,
Church Walk,
KETTERING.

Telephone: Kettering 2473

July, 1973.

**To the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses of the
Borough of Higham Ferrers**

MR. MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS,

In accordance with my statutory duty as your Medical Officer of Health, I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the Environmental Health of the Borough of Higham Ferrers for the year 1972.

This report has been compiled on the instructions set out in the Department of Health and Social Security Circular No. 1/73 which was received on 5th January, 1973.

The Vital Statistics for the Borough are set out on page 7 and do not, I think, require special comment.

The incidence of Infectious Disease was extremely low throughout the year but one mild case of Food Poisoning did occur. There were no secondary cases. For the second year in succession, no Tuberculosis has been notified.

On 26th May, information was received that foreign necklaces had been imported, mainly from Africa, the beads of which contain a toxic poison, i.e. Abrin.

A check was accordingly made on Fancy-goods and Toy Shops and Head Teachers were apprised of the situation. Thirty strings of these beads were found in various places throughout Northamptonshire Health Division No. 2 and arrangements were made for their destruction by incineration.

An outbreak of Smallpox occurred in Yugoslavia in March and a circular letter was sent to each General Practitioner in the area advising vaccination against Smallpox for persons travelling to Yugoslavia.

Also in March, I was informed that instances of illegal dumping of Cyanide Waste within the County had recently come to light. This is a

dangerous and illegal practice and the Public Health Inspector satisfied himself that no dumping of this kind had taken place on Borough Council or privately owned tips in this County District.

I must once again thank the Mayor and Members of the Council for their support during the year and Mr. Plummer and Miss Langley for their help in preparing this Report.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

F. R. N. LYNCH,

Medical Officer of Health.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Medical Officer of Health desires to express his thanks to the following for supplying material used in the compilation of this Report:

Dr. W. J. McQuillan,
Northamptonshire County Medical Officer of Health.

Kettering & District Hospital Management Committee.

Town Clerk.

Engineer & Surveyor to the Higham Ferrers and Rushden Water Board.

Surveyor and Public Health Inspector.

Manager, Department of Employment.

Honorary Secretary, Higham Ferrers Old People's Welfare Committee.

Honorary Secretary, Higham Ferrers After-Care Committee.

SECTION A.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS

Comparative Statistics for the Five Year Period 1968 to 1972

				1968	1969	1970	1971	1972
Area of the Borough (acres) ...	...	...	...	1,945	1,945	1,945	1,945	1,945
Population								
(Registrar General's Estimate) ...	...	...	...	4,390	4,480	4,760	4,740	4,860
Number of Live Births ...	...	...	...	76	69	72	100	106
Legitimate ...	...	...	...	72	66	67	97	101
Illegitimate ...	...	...	...	4	3	5	3	5
Birth Rate per 1,000 population ...	...	...	...	17.3	15.4	15.1	21.1	21.8
Number of Stillbirths ...	...	...	...	1	2	—	1	1
Legitimate ...	...	...	...	1	1	—	1	1
Illegitimate ...	...	...	...	—	1	—	—	—
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 total births				13.0	28.0	—	9.9	9.3
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 population ...	...	...	...	0.2	0.4	—	0.2	0.2
Number of Deaths ...	...	...	...	46	42	37	52	54
Death rate per 1,000 population ...	...	...	...	10.5	9.4	7.8	10.9	11.1
Deaths from Pregnancy, Childbirth								
and Abortion ...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—
Number of Infant Deaths ...	...	...	...	1	1	—	2	2
Infant Mortality rate per 1,000								
Live Births ...	...	...	...	13.2	14.0	—	20.0	18.9
Neonatal Mortality rate per 1,000								
Live Births ...	...	...	...	—	—	—	10.0	9.4
Early Neonatal Mortality rate per								
1,000 Live Births ...	...	...	...	—	—	—	10.0	9.4
Perinatal Mortality Rate (Stillbirths								
and deaths under one week com-								
bined per 1,000 total Live and								
Stillbirths) ...	...	...	...	13.2	28.0	—	19.8	18.7
Deaths from all forms of Tuberculosis								
including late effects ...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—
Deaths from Respiratory Tuberculosis				—	—	—	—	—
Deaths from Malignant Neoplasms ...	...	...	...	10	7	8	15	17
Deaths from Measles (all ages) ...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough								
(all ages) ...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—
Deaths from Enteritis and Diarrhoea								
under two years of age ...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—
Deaths from Acute Poliomyelitis and								
Polioencephalitis ...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—
Natural increase in population, i.e.,								
increase of Births over Deaths ...	...	...	...	30	27	35	48	52

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (acres)	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,945
Census Population 1951	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,681
	1961	...	...	...	...	...	3,753
	1971	...	...	...	...	...	4,700
Population (Registrar General's Mid-year Estimate 1972)						...	4,860
Number of inhabited houses 1951	...		...	...	...	...	1,256
	1961	...	...	...	...	...	1,299
	1971	...	...	...	...	...	1,776
	1972	...	...	...	...	...	1,775
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	£200,101
Product of Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	£1,925

The chief occupations of the inhabitants are as follows:

The manufacture of footwear and allied trades, light engineering, textile bonding, pet food manufacture and warehousing.

The social conditions of the district are satisfactory and at the end of the year the rate of unemployment in the area was 0.76 per cent of the working population. The National Rate was 3.5 per cent.

The density of population is 2.5 persons per acre and the Housing Factor is 2.7.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS, 1972

						<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Live Births								
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	56	46	101
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	3	2	5
<i>Totals</i>	...	...	...	...	...	59	48	106
Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population								21.8
Adjusted Birth Rate (comparability factor 0.87)								19.0
Stillbirths								
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
<i>Totals</i>	...	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
Rate per 1,000 total births (live and still)						...		9.3
Deaths								
Number registered all causes						...	...	...
						28	26	54
Crude death rate per 1,000 estimated population								11.1
Adjusted Death Rate (comparability factor 1.04)								11.5
Deaths from certain specified causes								
Cardio-vascular Disease (all forms)						...	...	...
						10	12	22
Malignant Neoplasms (all forms)						...	...	...
						12	5	17
Cerebrovascular Disease						...	...	...
						2	4	6
Diseases of Respiratory System						...	...	...
						4	1	5
Deaths from Maternal causes								
						...	...	...
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths								—
Deaths of Infants (under 1 year)								
						...	...	...
						—	2	2
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births						...		18.9
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births						...		19.8
						...		...
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births						...		—
						...		...
Deaths of Infants (under 4 weeks)								
						...	...	...
						—	1	1
Neonatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births						...		9.4
Perinatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths (stillbirths and deaths of infants under 1 week combined)						...		18.7
						...		...

CLASSIFICATION OF CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE, 1972

List No.	Cause of Death	Sex	All Ages	4 weeks & under				Age in years						
				Under 4 weeks	1 year	1-4	5-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75 plus
B19 (3)	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	... M.	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
B19 (5)	Malignant neoplasm, larynx	... F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
B19 (6)	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	... M.	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
B19 (7)	Malignant neoplasm, breast	... F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
B19 (9)	Malignant neoplasm, prostate	... M.	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1
B19 (11)	Other malignant neoplasms	... F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
B26	Chronic rheumatic heart disease	... M.	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
B27	Hypertensive disease	... F.	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
B28	Ischaemic heart disease	... M.	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
B29	Other forms of heart disease	... F.	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	2	2
B30	Cerebrovascular disease	... M.	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
B46 (6)	Other diseases of circulatory system	... F.	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
B31	Influenza	... M.	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
B32	Pneumonia	... F.	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
B33 (1)	Bronchitis and emphysema	... M.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
B33 (2)	Asthma	... F.	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
B42	Congenital anomalies	... M.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
B44	Other causes of perinatal mortality	... F.	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
BE47	Motor vehicle accidents	... M.	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
BE50	All other external causes	... F.	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ALL CAUSES	...	... M.	28	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	1	3	8	13
		... F.	26	1	1	—	—	—	1	2	—	2	7	12

COMMENTS ON VITAL STATISTICS

1. Population—The Registrar General's mid-year estimate of population i.e. 30th June, 1972, is 4,860. The corresponding figure for 1971 was 4,740 giving an increase in population of 120 in the twelve months.

2. Births—There were 106 live births in 1972, which is an increase of 6 in the number registered for the previous year. This gives a Crude Birth Rate of 21.8 per 1,000 population. The corresponding figure for 1971 was 21.1.

It will be apparent that the Birth Rate and Death Rate in any place is influenced by the age and sex distribution of the population so that in order that more exact comparisons can be made between one area and another the actual Rate is multiplied by a number called the Comparability Factor, the result being known as the Adjusted, or Corrected Rate. These Comparability Factors are supplied by the Registrar General and are based on the age and sex distribution as shown by the Census. For Higham Ferrers the Birth Rate Comparability Factor is 0.87 and the Corrected Birth Rate standardised on the basis of age and sex composition therefore gives an Adjusted Rate of 19.0. The Adjusted Rate of 19.0 compares with 27.4 for 1971 and the Provisional Crude Rate for England and Wales of 14.8.

3. Deaths—There were 54 deaths from all causes in 1972. The figure for last year was 52 and the corresponding Crude Death Rates are 11.1 and 10.9. In the same way as described in the case of **2. Births**, above, the Death Rate is standardised by the use of a further Comparability Factor. Its value for Higham Ferrers is 1.04 and the Adjusted Death Rate corrected by means of this calculation is found to be 11.5. The provisional Crude Rate for England and Wales as a whole is reckoned by the Registrar General to be 12.1.

4. Disposal of the Dead—of the 54 deaths, 42 bodies were disposed of by cremation at Kettering Crematorium, giving a percentage of 77.7.

5. Infant Mortality—There were two infant deaths registered in 1972 and the Infant Mortality Rate was 18.9 per 1,000 live births. One of these deaths was also a Neonatal Death i.e. occurring in the first month

of life, and the Neonatal Rate was 9.4 per 1,000 live births. The corresponding rates for England and Wales are 17.0 and 12.0. The causes of death were as follows:

<i>Age</i>	<i>Sex</i>	<i>Cause of Death</i>
20 mins.	F	Respiratory Failure. Prematurity. Eclampsia
10 months	F	Bronchopneumonia. Oesophageal Atresia (Autopsy)

6. Stillbirths—One Stillbirth was registered in 1972 and the Stillbirth Rate was 9.3 per 1,000 total births. The current rate for England and Wales is 12.0. I append details of this death.

<i>Sex</i>	<i>Cause</i>
F	Hydrocephalus

7. Maternal Mortality—There were no deaths classed to pregnancy and childbirth in 1972.

VITAL STATISTICS DURING 1972 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

Year	Estimated Population	Births		Deaths			
				Under One Year		All Ages	
		No.	Rate per 1000 population	No.	Rate per 1000 live births	No.	Rate per 1000 population
1895	2,000	64	32.0	3	47.0	30	15.0
1900	2,540	69	27.1	9	130.0	31	12.2
1905	2,794	48	17.2	5	104.1	28	9.6
1910	2,920	42	14.3	1	23.8	24	8.2
1915	2,849	51	18.3	4	78.4	37	12.9
1920	2,977	69	23.1	9	130.4	35	11.7
1925	2,998	35	11.6	3	85.7	17	5.6
1930	3,054	41	13.4	2	48.7	31	10.1
1935	2,987	31	10.4	0	0.0	37	12.4
1940	3,172	40	12.6	0	0.0	39	12.3
1941	3,690	45	12.5	1	22.2	42	11.6
1942	3,528	55	15.5	2	36.3	28	7.9
1943	3,366	52	15.4	1	19.2	39	11.3
1944	3,298	60	18.2	1	16.7	36	10.9
1945	3,268	71	21.7	2	28.2	46	14.1
1946	3,406	62	18.2	1	16.12	45	13.21
1947	3,528	80	22.67	3	37.50	48	13.60
1948	3,599	67	18.61	0	0.0	34	9.44
1949	3,644	60	16.46	2	33.33	40	10.97
1950	3,645	63	17.28	1	15.87	51	13.99
1951	3,661	51	13.93	0	0.0	40	10.92
1952	3,661	65	17.75	1	15.38	32	8.74
1953	3,648	58	15.89	3	51.72	39	10.69
1954	3,670	55	14.98	1	18.18	27	7.35
1955	3,660	51	13.93	2	39.21	46	12.56
1956	3,650	61	16.71	0	0.0	38	10.41
1957	3,690	44	11.92	1	22.72	35	9.48
1958	3,700	51	13.78	1	19.60	49	13.24
1959	3,700	51	13.78	1	19.60	27	7.29
1960	3,710	57	15.36	1	17.54	46	12.39
1961	3,770	58	15.38	0	0.0	30	7.95
1962	3,830	48	12.53	0	0.0	40	10.44
1963	3,850	47	12.20	1	21.27	36	9.35
1964	3,900	59	15.13	0	0.0	38	9.74
1965	4,210	73	17.34	3	41.10	42	9.98
1966	4,350	82	18.85	0	0.0	46	10.57
1967	4,380	69	15.8	0	0.0	41	9.4
1968	4,390	76	17.3	1	13.2	46	10.5
1969	4,480	69	15.4	1	14.0	42	9.4
1970	4,760	72	15.1	0	0.0	37	7.8
1971	4,740	100	21.1	2	20.0	52	10.9
1972	4,860	106	21.8	2	18.9	54	11.5

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

In subsequent sections, full details will be found relating to infectious diseases and environmental health within the Borough, for which services the Council is directly responsible.

The present section is related to those health services which concern more the health and welfare of the individual rather than public health and the community. The Health Committee of the Northamptonshire County Council is responsible for the administration of many of these services under Part III of the 1946 National Health Service Act.

Liaison between County Council services and District Council services is facilitated by the fact that your Medical Officer of Health is also a School Medical Officer and Assistant County Medical Officer.

Laboratory Facilities—Department of Pathology, Kettering & District General Hospital is available for the examination of specimens in connection with the diagnosis and control of infectious diseases.

Ambulance Service—This is one of the services for which the County Council is responsible and the area is adequately covered.

Domiciliary Services—These include District Nurses, Midwives and Health Visitors, who are all highly trained, qualified nurses on the staff of the County Medical Officer. The Home Help Service, also provided by the County Council, is proving more and more valuable in relieving people of domestic worries during periods of illness or confinement, and in helping old folk to remain in their own homes, so that they can retain their treasured independence.

Hospital Accommodation, Out-patient facilities and Clinics

The Oxford Regional Hospital Board is responsible for the following services:

GENERAL HOSPITALS

Kettering and Northampton

KETTERING GENERAL HOSPITAL

General Medicine, General Surgery
Gynaecology, Orthopaedic Surgery
Ear, Nose and Throat, Ophthalmology, Paediatrics and Physical Medicine

ROCKINGHAM ROAD HOSPITAL, KETTERING

Acute

ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL, KETTERING

Obstetrics, Special Care Babies, Geriatrics and Long Stay

ISEBROOK HOSPITAL, WELLINGBOROUGH

General Medicine, Maternity, Paediatrics, Geriatrics and Long Stay

WELLINGBOROUGH HOSPITAL

Gynaecology

RUSHDEN HOSPITAL

Dermatology, Chest Diseases, Mental Sub-normality (Children)

Out-patient facilities are available at the General Hospitals and also as follows:

Rushden Hospital

Chest (Diagnosis)	Wednesday	1.30 p.m.
Thoracic Surgery	Thursday (once monthly)	1.45 p.m.

Rushden Memorial Clinic

Dermatology	Thursday	9.30 a.m.
Diabetic	Monday (1st)	2.00 p.m.
Ear, Nose and Throat	Wednesday (alternate)	9.30 a.m.
	Wednesday (alternate)	2.00 p.m.
General Surgery	Tuesday (1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th)	2.00 p.m.
	Friday (2nd & 4th)	9.30 a.m.
	Friday (1st, 3rd & 5th)	2.30 p.m.
Geriatric	Friday (2nd, 4th & 5th)	2.00 p.m.
Gynaecology & Obstetrics	Monday (except last of month)	10.00 a.m.
	Tuesday (alternate)	9.00 a.m.
	Wednesday (alternate)	2.00 p.m.
Gynaecology	Thursday	10.00 a.m.
Laboratory Facilities	By arrangement Monday to Friday	
Medical Clinic	Monday (2nd & 4th)	1.30 p.m.
	Tuesday (alternate)	9.30 a.m.
	Friday (1st, 3rd & 5th)	9.00 a.m.

Ophthalmology	Thursday	9.00 a.m.-2.00 p.m.
Orthopaedic	Friday (4th)	2.30 p.m.
Paediatrics	Monday	2.00 p.m.
	Wednesday	9.00 a.m.
Physical Medicine	Monday	2.00 p.m.
	Friday (alternate)	2.00 p.m.
(Treatment)	Monday	9.00 a.m.-5.00 p.m.
	Wednesday	9.00 a.m.-5.00 p.m.
	Friday	9.00 a.m.-5.00 p.m.
Psychiatry	Thursday	2.00 p.m.

Attendance at all Clinics is by appointment only.

Venereal Disease Clinics

Kettering General Hospital, Out-patient Department

(Women)	Tuesday 4.00 p.m.-5.30 p.m.
(Men)	Tuesday 5.30 p.m.-7.00 p.m.

Northampton General Hospital, Old Out-patient Department

(Women)	Monday 5.15 p.m.-6.30 p.m.
	Friday 2.15 p.m.-3.30 p.m.
(Men)	Wednesday 2.00 p.m.-3.00 p.m.
	Friday 5.00 p.m.-6.30 p.m.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL, Health Clinic, Rectory Road, Rushden

Child Health Clinic Every Monday and Wednesday 2.00 p.m.

Family Planning Clinic Third Wednesday each month 5.30 p.m.

Relaxation Classes for Expectant Mothers Thursday 3.00 p.m.

Sale of Welfare Foods (National Dried Milk and Vitamin Preparations)

Monday	2.00 p.m.-4.30 p.m.
Wednesday	2.00 p.m.-4.00 p.m.

Immunisation and Vaccination—Immunisation against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Tetanus and Poliomyelitis and vaccination against Smallpox are free services, available either from the family doctor or at the County Health Clinics. Certain age groups of children can also be given B.C.G. vaccination to protect against Tuberculosis. This is done through the School Health Service.

A vaccine for the protection of infants against Measles is available and, in accordance with the policy of the County Health Department, a campaign for the control of and, it is hoped, ultimate eradication of this disease, was commenced in the Autumn of 1968.

National Assistance Acts, 1948 and 1951, Section 47—These Acts give Local Authorities powers to enable them to deal expeditiously with certain cases of persons in need of care and attention which they are unable to provide for themselves and are not receiving from other people.

No formal action was taken under this Section of these Acts in 1972.

Higham Ferrers Old People's Welfare Committee—This Committee has completed another successful year of work on behalf of the old people of the Borough.

Meals on Wheels Service—During 1972 1,852 meals were delivered. Since the inauguration of the Service a total of 18,277 meals have been delivered.

The Darby and Joan Club celebrated their 21st birthday in January. There was an average weekly attendance of 78 and a membership of 106.

Chiropody Service—During 1972, 433 clinics were held and 203 domiciliary visits were made. This marked improvement is due to the fact that another chiropodist was able to undertake the treatment of 22 patients.

Visitations—The Ladies' Committee have made many visits to those living alone or who are in ill-health giving assistance and advice where required. Monthly visits have also been made to those in hospital or homes when a small monetary gift has been given.

Holidays and Outings—In May 9 old people visited Clacton with the County Holiday Scheme and 148 spent an enjoyable holiday at Paignton. The Autumn holiday was spent at Southsea when 131 people joined the party. A number of day trips have also been organised.

The Christmas Party was held in December when 95 members attended.

Many efforts were arranged to raise funds for the work of the committee. The "Meals on Wheels Appeal", launched by the Secretary as Mayor, reached its target and a vehicle is to be purchased in the near future.

Higham Ferrers After-Care Committee—The good work of this Committee, in assisting patients in Higham Ferrers and Chelveston suffering from diseases of the chest and heart, has continued during 1972.

The main assistance has taken the form of grants for milk, eggs and groceries. Visits were made to patients in their own homes and in

Rushden Hospital. Both visits and grants have been much appreciated. As usual, cash grants were made at Christmas.

The principal source of income was from the sale of Christmas Seals. A factory collection and other efforts were arranged by Committee Members to raise funds for this worthy cause.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT

Water Supply—The Higham Ferrers and Rushden Water Board is responsible for the water supply to the Borough. The Board provides a treated water supply and the sources of supply are as follows.

Above Ground Source—*Sywell Reservoir*, which has a capacity of 236,000,000 gallons, and is situated in the Wellingborough Rural District. The reservoir is dependent upon springs and surface rainwater from the surrounding catchment area, also two small brooks flow into the reservoir. The size of the catchment area is approximately 2,000 acres. Treatment of water at these works consists of slow sand filtration, rapid gravity filtration, followed by chlorination.

Under Ground Source of Supply—(a) *Hardwater Crossing, Wollaston*. The source of supply here is from wells sunk in the Nene river gravels. Treatment of water consists of mechanical filtration, followed by chlorination.

(b) *Ditchford*. Water is extracted from the gravels by porous concrete collector ducts which are laid in the alluvial gravels adjacent to Ditchford lake. Treatment of water consists of rapid gravity filtration, partial softening, aeration, and finally, chlorination.

(c) Further sources of supply belonging to the Board are a gravel well at Earls Barton and springs at Grendon.

Quality of Water—The chemical analyses of water taken at Ditchford, Sywell and Wollaston Pumping Stations gave the following results:

		<i>Final Water</i> <i>Wollaston</i> <i>Works</i>	<i>Final Water</i> <i>Ditchford</i> <i>Works</i>	<i>Final Water</i> <i>Sywell</i> <i>Works</i>
Physical Characters	...	Good	Good	Good
Reaction		<i>pH</i> 7.2	7.5	7.3

Chemical Analysis

				Parts per 100,000		
Samples contained				Sywell (treated)	Ditchford (treated)	Wollaston (treated)
Chloride	...	...	...	4.0	7.0	5.4
Ammonia (Free and Saline)				0.0060	nil	nil
Ammonia (Albuminoid)	...			0.0076	0.0116	0.0104
Nitrate	...	...	...	absent	absent	absent
Nitrite	...	...	...	0.10	0.10	0.55
Poisonous Metals	...	...		absent	absent	absent
Calcium	...	...	...	8.4	12.6	12.6
Magnesium		...	...	1.14	1.42	1.13
Alkalinity	...	...	...	13.0	22.5	21.5
Total Hardness	...	...		17.8	32.9	31.4
Permanent hardness			...	17.8	15.1	16.0
Temporary hardness			...	11.4	17.8	15.4
Microscopic examination						
of deposit	...	...		none	slight	none
Bacteriological						
examination	...	...		c.o. absent	c.o. absent	c.o. absent

Fluoride Content of the Water Supply—

Sywell Reservoir	...	0.24	parts of fluoride per million parts of water
Wollaston, Hardwater			
Crossing	...	0.2	parts of fluoride per million parts of water
Ditchford	...	0.18	parts of fluoride per million parts of water

Water Samples—521 samples were taken in the area of the Board during the year. All samples of treated water gave satisfactory results with the exception of six which gave slightly unsatisfactory results.

Water Consumption—The following are combined figures for Rushden and Higham Ferrers.

							<i>gallons</i>
Average daily consumption							...
Domestic Use:							
Average per day							...
Trade Use:							
Average per day							...
Consumption/Head/Day							
Domestic							...
Trade							...

Piped Water Supply—New services: Private 470. The rainfall over the past 14 years was as follows:

		1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966
Rushden	...	18.4	31.64	18.90	19.27	21.45	18.22	25.89	28.89
Sywell	...	20.5	33.74	20.80	18.91	22.23	16.35	28.98	28.96
		1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972		
		20.22	30.43	23.07	22.89	20.51	20.67		
		25.23	28.29	22.13	25.95	23.52	21.64		

Sewage Disposal, Drainage and Sewerage—These are modern works constructed in 1954. Crude sewage as it arrives at the works first flows into settlement tanks where it is allowed to stand. Heavy matter falls to the bottom and it is drained off as sludge. This runs to a series of sludge beds to dry off. The supernatant sewage runs from the settlement tanks to the primary filter beds, percolates through the clinker and is acted upon by the anaerobic bacteria. The effluent is collected from these beds into a humus tank and led finally from this to the secondary filter beds where the same process is carried out. From these beds through humus tanks, final effluent goes to the River Nene. In the past, due to the very strong nature of the crude sewage, it was impossible to get a satisfactory final effluent.

The situation has been improved considerably by the manufacturers in the Borough installing pre-treatment works on their premises and so the strength of the crude sewage as it arrives at the works has been reduced. All manufacturers have now completed the installation of pre-treatment plants at their works. The Council has constructed settlement lagoons for polishing the final effluent and this has resulted in a discharge of excellent quality.

Plans are being prepared for the extension of the works to accommodate a leather factory which is not at present connected to the sewer.

Closet Accommodation—With the exception of a few outlying houses in the district which have septic tanks, all houses are connected to the main sewers.

Disinfection—It has not been necessary to carry out any disinfection during the year.

Eradication of Bed Bugs—One case was reported and dealt with. This is almost a thing of the past and very few instances occur.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949—The following is a summary of work carried out during the year:

Inspections	...	...	...	...	114
Sewage works	...	...	...	...	3 treatments
Sewers	...	...	...	...	3 treatments
*Business premises	...	...	...	...	77 treatments
Private houses	...	...	...	...	100 treatments

*Several Business premises are served by a private operator.

Movable Dwellings—Caravan sites and Control of Development Act, 1960. Only one site exists to which two visits were made.

Disinfestation—Several requests to deal with wasps’ nests in premises were dealt with.

Noise Abatement Act, 1960. Five complaints were dealt with during the year.

Office, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963—Twenty-two premises are registered under the Act and forty visits were made in connection with it.

SECTION D.

HOUSING

Northampton Road/High Street Site. The erection of 27 flats and 16 garages on this site was nearing completion at the end of the year.

Improvement Grants—Fourteen Standard Grants and three Discretionary Grants were approved during the year. The carrying out of this type of work is a benefit to the town, by providing the necessary amenities so that the houses improved are brought up to standard. The life of many of the older type of houses may be prolonged by this action, which is satisfactory and to be encouraged.

Private Development—18 houses were constructed during the year and further houses were in the course of erection at the end of the year. Private development has shown an increase in the Borough and three sites have been completed in recent years. One estate of 70 houses and another of 76 are being developed.

Housing Application—The Housing List remains somewhat stationary and no serious housing conditions exist. The demand for exchange of accommodation still remains high.

Applications for housing accommodation (Priority list) ...	7
Applications for housing accommodation (General list) ...	38
Applications for exchange of houses ...	68

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Food Premises—Twenty visits were made to food shops in the Borough during the year.

A summary of the work carried out by the Public Health Inspector during the year will be found in Section G pages 31 and 32.

Unsound food surrendered—42lbs.

Complaints regarding the purchase of mouldy foodstuffs continue to be received and it is evident that stock rotation is not always being maintained. Two complaints regarding the presence of foreign bodies in foodstuffs were received and warning letters sent.

Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1970—The number of premises subject to these Regulations is as follows:

					<i>No.</i>
Licensed premises	...	...	...	...	4
Grocers	...	...	...	...	13
Butchers	...	...	...	...	3
Cafes and Restaurants	...	...	...	...	2
Fish Friers	...	...	...	...	1
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	1
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	11
Sweets and Confectionery	...	...	...	...	16
No. of premises fitted to comply with Regulation 18					
(Provision of wash-hand basins)	...	...	...	...	8
No. of premises to which Regulation 21 applies					
(Provision of washing facilities for food and equipment)	...	...	...	...	10
No. of premises fitted to comply with Regulation 21					9

Milk Supply—There is no milk pasteurisation plant in the Borough. Milk supplies are obtained from outside the area. Two neighbouring authorities have pasteurisation plants and routine samples of milk, washed

bottle rinses and churn rinses are taken. The Borough is responsible for milk delivered in the area.

Manufacture and Sale of Ice-Cream—Fifteen premises are registered for the sale of ice-cream. No ice-cream is manufactured in the Borough and ice-cream sold in the area is pre-packed.

Slaughterhouses—There are no licensed slaughterhouses in the Borough but adjacent authorities have slaughterhouses where all meat used for human consumption is inspected before use.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Health Services and Public Health Act, 1968 Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations Notification of Food Poisoning and Infectious Diseases

The Infectious Diseases to be notified to the Medical Officer of Health are:

Acute Encephalitis	Measles
Acute Meningitis	Ophthalmia Neonatorum
Acute Poliomyelitis	Paratyphoid Fever
Anthrax	Plague
Cholera	Relapsing Fever
Diphtheria	Scarlet Fever
Dysentery (Amoebic or Bacillary)	Smallpox
Food Poisoning or suspected	Tetanus
Food Poisoning	Tuberculosis
Infective Jaundice	Typhoid Fever
Leprosy	Typhus
Leptospirosis	Whooping Cough
Malaria	Yellow Fever

Responsibility for notifying a case or suspected case of Food Poisoning or Infectious Disease rests exclusively on the medical practitioner attending the patient unless he believes that another practitioner has already notified the case.

Only one case of infectious disease was notified during the year.

Measles—No cases were notified during the year. There were two in 1971.

Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus—Routine immunisation of infants under one year of age with Triple Antigen has again shown its efficacy in preventing these diseases.

Immunisation is carried out either by the Family Doctor or at the County Health Department's clinics. No cases occurred.

Poliomyelitis—This is the fourth disease which is prevented by routine immunisation in infancy. This is again done either by the Family Doctor or at the Health Department's clinics. No cases occurred.

Scarlet Fever—No cases were reported.

Infectious Hepatitis—No cases occurred.

Smallpox—There were no cases.

Leprosy—The Public Health (Leprosy) Regulations, 1966 came into force on March 1st, 1966.

Under these regulations cases of Leprosy are now notifiable to the District Medical Officer of Health and not as heretofore to the Chief Medical Officer of the Department of Health and Social Security.

Gastro-Intestinal Diseases—There have been no cases of Gastro-Intestinal Diseases due to Dysenteric organisms.

One case of Food Poisoning due to *Salmonella Typhimurium* was reported in October.

Tuberculosis—No notifications of Tuberculosis were received in 1972 and no deaths were recorded. Two cases were removed from the Register as healed.

Dangerous Necklace Beads—On 26th May, information was received that foreign necklaces had been imported, the beads of which contain an extremely toxic poison, i.e. Abrin.

A check was accordingly made on Fancy-goods and Toy Shops and Head Teachers were apprised of the situation.

The "beads" are really berries of the Vine, *Abrus Precatorius* which is native to Asia, Africa and Mexico. The colour of the beads is red with black spots on the surface giving a 'Ladybird' appearance.

Thirty strings of these beads were found in various places throughout the area of Health Division No. 2 and arrangements were made for their destruction by incineration.

MONTHLY INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES
(Other than Tuberculosis) 1972

<i>Disease</i>	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	TOTAL
Food Poisoning ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
TOTALS ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1

AGE INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES
(Other than Tuberculosis) 1972

<i>Disease</i>	0-	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65+	All Ages	Removed to Hospital	Deaths	Age Unknown
Food Poisoning ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—

SECTION G.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

There are 37 factories on the register and 32 visits were made during the year. Four defects were found, four of which were remedied and one were referred to H.M. Inspector of Factories.

There were 46 outworkers on the August list—all employed in the making of wearing apparel.

No action was necessary in respect of Home Work (Section 133 and 134).

The Factory Inspectors carry out the routine inspection of all factories, and if anything is found that comes under the Local Authority then it is referred to them.

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1961
for the year 1972

PART 1 OF THE ACT

1.—Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

<i>Premises</i>	<i>Number on Register</i>	<i>Number of</i>		
		<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Written notices</i>	<i>Occupiers prosecuted</i>
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	—	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	34	27	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (ex- cluding out-workers' premises) ...	3	5	—	—
TOTAL ...	37	32	—	—

2.—Cases in which defects were found.

<i>Particulars</i> (1)	<i>Number of cases in which defects were found</i>				<i>Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted</i> (6)
	<i>Found</i> (2)	<i>Remedied</i> (3)	<i>Referred To H.M. Inspector</i> (4)	<i>By H.M. Inspector</i> (5)	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1.)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2.)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4.) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6.)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7.):					
(a) Insufficient	4	4	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	4	4	—	—	—

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS AND VISITS MADE BY THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Housing					
Complaints received	...	...	...	...	126
Inspections under the Public Health Acts:					
(a) Complaints	...	...	...	...	70
(b) Infectious diseases		...	...	...	—
(c) Notice from builders		...	...	...	110
(d) Others	...	...	...	...	20
Re-inspections under the Public Health Acts	...			...	20
Inspections under the Public Health Acts			...	...	40
Visits re housing applications		...	...	...	20
Visits re infectious diseases		...	...	...	—
Meat and Food					
Visits to foodshops	...	...	...	...	26
Visits to bake-houses	...	...	...	...	10
Factories					
Visits to factories with mechanical power			...	...	21
Visits to other factories	...	...	...	...	11
Miscellaneous					
Visits re Land Charges Act	...	...		...	26
Visits under Prevention of Damage by Pests Act				...	92
Visits to refuse tip	...	...	...	...	—
Visits to sewage works	...	...	...	...	34
Miscellaneous visits	...	...	...	...	20
Visits for interviews	...	...	...	...	32
Interviews at office	...	...	...	...	250
Water tests of drains carried out	...	...		...	50
Visits re applications for improvement grants				...	30
Revisits re improvement grants	...	...		...	35
Visits to caravan sites	...	...	...	...	1
Keeping of animals	...	...	...	...	3
Water Samples	...	...	...	...	—
National Insurance Act	...	...	...	...	—

DEFECTS REMEDIED DURING THE YEAR

Housing					
Repairs to water services	...	...	...	...	36
Rainwater gutters and/or downpipes renewed or repaired					25
Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	10
Drains cleansed	...	...	...	...	72
Floors repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	4
Additional W.Cs. provided	...	...	...	...	22
Drains repaired or altered	...	...	...	...	22
Yard pavings repaired	...	...	...	...	10
Ceilings repaired or renewed		...	...	...	6
Bathrooms provided	...	...	...	...	13
Lavatory basins provided		...	...	...	10
Walls repaired internally	...	...	...	...	15
Flushing cisterns to W.Cs. repaired or renewed				...	35
Hot water systems provided or repaired			...	...	12
Rooms redecorated	...	...	...	...	8
Nuisances from animals abated		...	...	...	4

Dampness to walls remedied	...	...	...	15
W.C. pans renewed	...	...	...	10
Sink wastepipes renewed or repaired	...	...	...	20
Dustbins provided	...	...	...	18
Doors repaired or renewed	...	...	...	6
Windows repaired or renewed	...	...	...	10
Fireplaces renewed or repaired	...	...	...	6
Staircases repaired	...	...	...	—
Skirting boards repaired	...	...	...	—
Walls repaired externally	...	...	...	8
Foodstores provided	...	...	...	—
Sinks repaired or renewed	...	...	...	15
Manholes constructed	...	...	...	15
Painting (externally)	...	...	...	6
Chimney stacks repaired	...	...	...	2
Sink waste channels repaired or renewed	...	...	...	6

Notices Served

Public Health Act (Informal)	...	...	...	18
Factories Act, 1937	...	...	...	—
Rent Act, Certificate of Disrepair	...	...	...	—

Infectious Diseases

Rooms disinfected	...	...	...	—
Articles of bedding destroyed	...	...	...	—

Pet Animal Act, 1951

Licences issued	...	...	...	...	...	—
-----------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

Food Premises in the Borough

Grocery and Provisions	...	...	...	...	6
General shops	...	...	...	...	14
Fish shops (wet and fried)	...	...	...	...	2
Butchers' shops	...	...	...	...	4
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	4
Cake shops	...	...	...	...	2
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	1
Dairies	...	...	...	...	—
Restaurants	...	...	...	...	4
Hotels	...	...	...	...	2
Licensed premises	...	...	...	...	5
Clubs	...	...	...	...	3

Premises registered under the Food and Drugs Act

For the sale of ice-cream	...	...	...	...	18
For the manufacture of sausages, etc.	...	...	...	...	3

Caravan Sites and Control of Development, Act 1960

Licences issued	...	...	...	...	—
Inspections	...	...	...	...	4
Licences renewed	...	...	...	...	1
Licences lapsed	...	...	...	...	1
Music, Singing and Dancing Licences, Premises inspected	...	...	...	...	2

